



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Eugene District Office

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Eugene, Oregon 97440-2226

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1792A

EA-01-20

McGowan Environmental

Educational Area EA

July 24, 2001

Concerned Citizen,

The McKenzie Resource Area of the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management has completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant (FONSI) for the McGowan Creek Environmental Educational Area located in Section 19, T. 16 S., R. 2 W., Will. Mer.

You have expressed an interest in receiving copies of Environmental Assessments for district projects. Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment for your review and any comments. Public notice of this proposed action will be published in the Eugene Register Guard on July 25, 2001. The EA will also be available on the internet at <http://www.edo.or.blm.gov/nepa>. The public comment period will end on August 8, 2001. Please submit comments to me at the district office, by mail or by e-mail at [OR090mb@or.blm.gov](mailto:OR090mb@or.blm.gov) by close of business (4:15 p.m.) on or prior to August 8, 2001. If you have any questions concerning this proposal, please feel free to call Christie Hardenbrook at 683-6110.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the district office, 2890 Chad Drive, Eugene, Oregon during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA or other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,

Emily Rice, Field Manager  
McKenzie Resource Area

Enclosure

## **McGowan Creek Environmental Educational Area Environmental Assessment**

### **1.01 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes trail improvements and the construction of an elevated walkway and stream crossing in the McGowan Creek Environmental Educational Area (EEA), which is located in T. 16 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 19. The McGowan Creek EEA is located approximately 6 miles west of Marcola, Oregon (see attached map). This 79-acre area is adjacent to McGowan Creek and provides a showcase for several ecological features. The BLM established this as an Environmental Educational Area to provide and maintain environmental education opportunities for local communities. Within the McGowan Creek EEA there is a 0.6 mile trail loop, which is often utilized by environmental educators. Implementation of these projects is expected in the fall of 2001.

#### **1.2 Purpose for Action**

An important mission of the BLM is to provide and maintain environmental education opportunities for the public. The McGowan Creek EEA provides the BLM with an opportunity to fulfill this mission. The proposed treatments within McGowan Creek EEA would meet the following management objectives:

- Help the Eugene District minimize disturbance of educational values.
- Ensure the safety of visitors by providing a safe stream crossing, which is not currently in place.
- Protect wetland vegetation by reducing visitor impact.

#### **1.3 Conformance**

The proposed action and alternatives are in conformance with the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, April 1994, and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, June 1995 (Eugene District ROD/RMP) as amended by the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standard and Guidelines*, January 2001. The analysis contained in these EIS's are incorporated into this document by reference.

The above referenced documents are available for review at the Eugene District Office or on the internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/nwfp.htm>. The Analysis File contains additional information used

by the interdisciplinary team (IDT) to analyze impacts and alternatives and is hereby incorporated by reference.

## **1.4 Scoping**

The scoping process identified the agency and public concerns relating to the proposed projects helping to define the issues and alternatives that would be examined in detail in the EA. The general public was informed of the planned EA by inclusion of this project in the Mohawk Partnership Newsletter.

## **1.5 Identified Issues**

**1.5.1 Issue #1-** Would activities associated with construction of a log bridge or permanent footbridge, with trail enhancement at approaches, lead to an increase in sedimentation rate into McGowan Creek?

**1.5.2 Issue #2-** Would any effects resulting from the construction activities directly or indirectly affect hydrologic function or aquatic organisms or habitats?

**1.5.3 Issue #3-** Would construction of an elevated walkway and footbridge affect wetland vegetation and soils?

### **1.5.5 Issues Identified but Eliminated from Analysis**

None were identified.

## **2.0 ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

This section describes alternatives identified by the IDT, comparison of alternatives and a summary of environmental effects.

### **2.1 Alternative 1- Proposed Action**

The BLM proposes to provide for visitor safety and mitigate resource damage by:

- constructing handrails on a log bridge
- constructing an elevated walkway
- improving the existing trail

#### **2.1.1 Log Bridge**

Handrails would be constructed and placed upon the log bridge to provide for visitor safety. Steps would be constructed to allow for safe visitor access to the bridge. Bridge dimensions are approximately 125 feet long and 45 inches at the largest end. A small section of trail would also be brushed, permanently connecting the main trail loop with the log bridge.

#### **2.1.2 Elevated Walkway**

An elevated walkway would be constructed where the McGowan Creek Educational Area trail passes through a wetland area. The elevated walkway would span approximately 80 feet long and 4 feet wide.

#### **2.1.3 Trail Improvements**

Trail improvements include brushing portions of the trail where vegetation has overgrown the trail, and replacing worn steps where needed. There are some sections of the trail loop where natural wood steps were installed to ease the grade and mitigate soil damage. Due to wear and tear, these steps are in various stages of degradation. This alternative proposes to replace those steps with treated lumber. Step material would consist primarily of 6" rounds cut to the width of the existing trails.

### **2.2 Alternative II - Constructed Footbridge**

This alternative would involve trail improvements, and the placement of two structures in the McGowan Creek Educational Area. The BLM proposes to provide for visitor safety and mitigate resource damage by:

- constructing a permanent footbridge across McGowan Creek
- constructing an elevated walkway
- completing trail improvements

#### **2.2.1 Footbridge**

A new footbridge would be constructed where the McGowan Creek Educational Area trail crosses McGowan Creek. Currently, there is not a permanent stream crossing in place, but rather a set of boards that can be placed across the stream as needed. This alternative proposes to construct a bridge 35 feet long and 3 feet wide, with handrails. The location would span from the top of the bank above the high water mark.

### **2.2.2 Elevated Walkway**

Same as proposed action

### **2.2.3 Trail Improvements**

Same as proposed action

### **2.2.4 Design Feature**

Ground disturbance during bridge construction should be minimized to prevent the exposure of seed bed that could help non-native and noxious weed species to establish and spread, and native species should be left intact wherever possible.

## **2.3 Alternative III - No Action**

Under this alternative there would not be construction of the proposed structures. The trail would exist as it does today, without a safe stream crossing to provide for visitor safety, and without an elevated walkway to reduce resource impacts.

## **2.4 Design Features Common to All Action Alternatives**

- 1)** For construction of elevated walkway, ground disturbance during construction should be minimized to prevent the exposure of seed bed that could help non-native and noxious weed species to establish and spread, and native species should be left intact wherever possible.
- 2)** For construction of elevated walkway in areas where disturbance is necessary and will result in areas of exposed seed bed, the native species at the site should be carefully dug up and replaced after construction is completed whenever possible.
- 3)** There is a seasonal stipulation that no mechanical activity would occur within the project area from March 1 to July 15 because there is a known Northern spotted owl activity center within 0.25 mile of the unit.
- 4)** No trees would be felled as a result of the proposed project activities and existing down logs will be disturbed as little as possible during project activities.

## 2.5 Comparison of Alternatives

<b>Objectives and Issues</b>	<b>Alternative I Proposed Action</b>	<b>Alternative II Constructed Footbridge</b>	<b>Alternative III No Action</b>
Help Eugene District minimize disturbance of educational values	yes	yes	no
Ensure the safety of visitors by providing a safe stream crossing	yes	yes	no
Protect wetland vegetation by reducing visitor impact	yes	yes	no
Reduce the cumulative effects of sedimentation	yes	yes	no
Reduce disturbance of streambanks vegetation	yes	yes	no

## **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENTS**

### **3.1 Threatened and Endangered Wildlife**

#### **3.1.1 Bald Eagle (Threatened)**

Suitable nesting habitat for bald eagles is mature forest within one mile of a lake, river or major tributary. There is no suitable habitat for bald eagles within or adjacent to the project area. This species will not be analyzed in this document.

#### **3.1.2 Northern spotted owl (Threatened)**

There is a spotted owl core area and site center (McGowan Creek, MSN #2373) within a quarter mile of the proposed project area. Suitable nesting habitat for this species is mature forest (generally greater than 80 years old) with high canopy cover, an open understory, large down logs and large snags. The proposed project would occur within suitable owl habitat (stands greater than 80 years of age).

### **3.2 Survey and Manage**

#### **3.2.1 Botany**

The McGowan Environmental Educational Area was surveyed for survey and manage species that required pre-disturbance surveys, and none were found.

### **3.3 Soils**

Soils located at the proposed bridge crossing site are Kinney cobbly loam. Kinney is a deep (40 to 60 inches), well-drained soil that forms in old stabilized slump areas. Slopes range from 3 to 30%. The surface layer is a cobbly loam, the subsoil is a cobbly clay loam. Permeability is moderate and the hazard of water erosion is moderate. Currently, small sediment additions occur where trail grade steepens to cross McGowan Creek.

Soils located at the site where elevated tread is proposed are Minniece silty clay loam. Slopes are less than 8%. Minniece is a deep (60 inches), somewhat poorly drained soil that forms in alluvium in narrow drainage ways and depressional topography. The surface layer is a silty clay loam; the subsoil is a mottled silty clay and clay. A high water table occurs at the surface to a depth of two feet from November to may. Permeability is slow and the hazard of water erosion is slight. The soil is subject to rare periods of flooding.

Soils located at all other upland sites, including where tread improvements (steps) are proposed, are Peavine silty clay loam. Slopes range from 3 to 30%. Peavine is a moderately deep (20 to 40 inches), well drained soil that forms on toeslopes of uplands. The surface layer is a silty clay loam; the subsoil is clay and silty clay. Permeability is moderately slow and the hazard of water erosion is moderate. Because Peavine soils are clay rich and have slow internal drainage, they are very prone to compaction. When surface water flows are concentrated and diverted to the compacted tread, erosion causes gullies to develop. The steps previously installed satisfactorily checked erosion and gullyng on steeper trail grades, but these have lost function with age.

### 3.4 Hydrology

The proposed bridge location is on a fourth order, unnamed tributary to McGowan Creek which generally flows easterly for approximately 5 miles before it joins the Mohawk River. McGowan Creek is a cobble and gravel system which has sections characterized by the accumulation of sand and silt sized materials along depositional zones. The unnamed tributary is a cobble and gravel system which shows evidence of past stream flows sufficiently high enough to mobilize finer materials through the system and downstream. Stratified layers of uniformly sized materials deposited during past stream flow events characterizes the section of stream immediately adjacent to the proposed bridge location. Organic matter introduction and from tree windfall and downstream recruitment of material during high stream flows is leading to the accumulation of fine organic and fine sediments in depositional zones created in areas of lowered stream velocities. The entire section of the unnamed tributary is slightly entrenched and in some locations not fully connected with the flood plain. However, continued accumulation of stream bed materials pulsing through the system during high flow events is causing aggradation of materials along some stream sections and resulting in reestablishment of some flood plain function.

Stream temperature monitoring of McGowan Creek in Section 19 along the unnamed tributary shows that the State standards for salmonid bearing waters is not exceeded. Stream shading is provided by ample tree canopy coverage along the tributary and is dominated by large Douglas-fir and western red cedar.

### 3.5 Fisheries

McGowan Creek is used or potentially used by cutthroat and rainbow trout, steelhead, and spring chinook salmon. The first 2 miles of McGowan Creek (4 miles below project location) is suitable habitat and potentially used by chinook salmon. Rainbow trout and steelhead use roughly the lower 5 miles of McGowan Creek. Cutthroat trout are found throughout the McGowan Creek system and above the proposed project site. The streambed materials in the unnamed tributary and McGowan Creek in general contains adequate spawning gravels of appropriate sizes for salmonid species but is deficient in rearing and refuge areas. Large wood spanning or accumulating along the stream channel is leading to the creation of more and larger pools and an overall increase in lower velocity habitats. The stream system and surrounding wetlands and ponds provide good habitat for other aquatic organisms.

McGowan Creek is considered critical habitat for spring chinook salmon and essential fish habitat for steelhead and spring chinook salmon.

### 3.6 Invasive and Non native Plant Species

During surveys, the following non native and noxious weed species were found:

#### Invasive

*Cirsium arvense* (Canada thistle)(Oregon List "B" weed species) was found at the East side of the wet meadow, near one end of the proposed elevated walkway over the wetland.

#### Non native plant species

*Digitalis purpurea* (foxglove) and *Hypericum perforatum* (St. John's wort) were found scattered infrequently throughout the wet meadow area, and a small patch of *Rubus laciniatus* (evergreen blackberry) was found along the side of the trail.



## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This Chapter incorporates the analysis of cumulative effects in the USDA, Forest Service and the USDI, Bureau of Land Management Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, February 1994, (Chapters 3 & 4), Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, January 2001, (Chapters 3 & 4) and the Eugene District Proposed RMP/EIS, November 1994 (Chapter 4). These documents analyze most cumulative effects of timber harvest and other related management activities. None of the alternatives in this proposal would have cumulative effects on resources beyond those effects analyzed in the above documents. The following analysis includes cumulative effects that supplement those analyzed in the above documents, and provides site-specific information and analysis particular to the alternatives considered here. Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives are listed in Appendix A.

### 4.1 Alternative I - Proposed Action

**4.1.1 Issue #1:** Would activities associated with construction of a log bridge or permanent footbridge, with trail enhancement at approaches, lead to an increase in sedimentation rate or quantity introduced into McGowan Creek?

#### **Direct and Indirect Effects**

A very slight amount of sediment may be introduced from foot traffic use of the log-stringer bridge.

#### **Cumulative Effects**

The overall expectation would be the reduction of sediment entering the McGowan Creek system by eliminating the existing unimproved crossing and by using the existing downed log to cross the stream.

**4.1.2 Issue #2:** Would any effects resulting from the construction activities directly or indirectly affect hydrologic function or aquatic organisms or habitats?

#### **Direct and Indirect Effects**

Modification of the existing log for safe foot traffic use, proposed trail work, and boardwalk construction would lead to no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on the hydrology of the stream system. Direct effects to aquatic life would be virtually nil and ephemeral as wood chips introduced during log modification would be minimal, measured in a few pounds of chips at most, and moved quickly through and out of the system. Indirect effects would include the reduction of sediment input via foot traffic through the stream and along planks placed in the riparian area.

#### **Cumulative Effects**

Trail work and boardwalk construction would maintain hydrologic integrity and lead to no anticipated effects to fisheries or aquatic organisms or populations.

**4.1.3 Issue #3:** Would construction of an elevated walkway and footbridge affect wetland vegetation and soils?

**Direct and Indirect Effects**

No plant species of concern were found in the immediate vicinity of the log bridge, and no negative impacts are anticipated from this action.

The construction of an elevated walkway over the wetland would involve localized ground disturbance and damage of the wetland vegetation and soils during the duration of the walkway construction. The greatest disturbance resulting from the construction of the bridge would occur at the edges of the wetland, where the walkway would be anchored. At these sites, localized increases in non-native or noxious weed species may occur, but these effects would be minimized by the recommended mitigations (see design features).

**Cumulative Effects**

By limiting foot traffic on the wetlands, disturbance to soils and wetland vegetation is curtailed. The spread of noxious weeds is also reduced. Therefore, no cumulative effects are expected.

**4.2 Alternative II - Constructed Footbridge**

**4.2.1 Issue #1:** Would activities associated with construction of a log bridge or permanent footbridge, with trail enhancement at approaches, lead to an increase in sedimentation rate or quantity introduced into McGowan Creek?

**Direct and Indirect Effects**

Same as the proposed alternative

**Cumulative Effects**

Same as the proposed alternative

**4.2.2 Issue #2:** Would any effects resulting from the construction activities directly or indirectly affect hydrologic function or aquatic organisms or habitats?

**Direct and Indirect Effects**

Construction of a permanent bridge across the unnamed tributary could lead to changes in the adjoining streambanks and riparian areas and result in direct and indirect effects to hydrology and fisheries resources. Direct effects resulting from bridge construction include short-term sediment introduction via bank and bed disturbance during site modification activities necessary for proper structure placement. Bridge placement may indirectly reduce sediment introduction and bank disturbance from other creek crossings by concentrating use at the improved bridge site.

**Cumulative Effects**

An engineered and permanently set bridge could affect long-term stream dynamics by influencing the tendency of the creek to change meander patterns across its floodplain.

**4.2.4 Issue #3:** Would construction of an elevated walkway and footbridge affect wetland vegetation and soils?

**Direct and Indirect Effects**

The ground disturbance involved in constructing the bridge could cause some localized increases in non-native or noxious weed species, but because of the limited area that would be disturbed, this increase would not constitute a threat to the area as a whole. These potential negative impacts would be minimized by the recommended mitigations.

Expected impacts for construction of the elevated walkway are the same as for the proposed action.

**Cumulative Effects**

There are no expected cumulative effects.

**4.3 Alternative III - No Action**

**4.3.1 Issue #1:** Would activities associated with construction of a log bridge or permanent footbridge, with trail enhancement at approaches, lead to an increase in sedimentation rate or quantity introduced into McGowan Creek?

**Direct and Indirect Effects**

By taking no actions to make the existing log a safer span and eliminate use of planks through riparian areas to cross the stream would lead to continued disturbance of streambanks and riparian vegetation.

**Cumulative Effects**

No action would result in continued sedimentation to the McGowan Creek system. Disturbance of vegetation would increase the likelihood of sediment being transported into the stream during rain events and could lead to the expansion of trails or new stream crossings as existing portions degrade.

**4.3.2 Issue #2:** Would any effects resulting from the construction activities directly or indirectly affect hydrologic function or aquatic organisms or habitats?

**Direct and Indirect Effects**

There are no direct or indirect effects.

**4.3.4 Issue #3:** Would proposed actions and alternatives lead to increases in noxious weed species, and how would such increases affect the site over time?

**Direct and Indirect Effects**

The lack of a footbridge over the creek necessitates that users climb up and down the streambanks, which may uproot native vegetation and open up the area to invasion by non-native and/or noxious weed species.

This site is a high use educational area, where large groups of people may walk through the wetland on a regular basis. This causes a localized impact that, over time, may cause the death of native wetland vegetation, the invasion of the disturbed areas by invasive species or noxious weeds, and damage to soils. Construction of an elevated walkway

over the area would cause less impact on the wetland, in the long term, than the persistent disturbance and destruction of the vegetation and soils that occurs by groups walking on the wetland.

**Cumulative Effects**

The potential for ground disturbance increases the possibilities of noxious weed spreading.

## **5.0 Other Environmental Effects Common to All Action Alternatives**

### **5.1 Prime Farmland Rangeland**

There is no prime farmland or rangeland within the Federal ownership of the proposed project area.

### **5.2 Threatened and Endangered Species**

There is no disturbance or impacts to Northern spotted owl habitat as work will occur outside the critical nesting period.

### **5.3 Fish**

The proposed action, both in scope and complexity, is consistent with terms and conditions as set forth in the Biological Assessment for Programmatic USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management Activities Affecting Upper Willamette Steelhead Trout and Chinook Salmon within the Willamette Province (above Willamette Falls), Oregon (May, 1999). Eugene District determined that affects to chinook salmon were adequately covered and as such, no further consultation is necessary. Actions undertaken would not include removal of streamline trees, construction of new crossings, or lead to the diversion of sediment of water from trails to water bodies. ODFW guidelines for timing of in-water work would be followed for any actions involving crossings or riparian areas. Actions are not likely to adversely affect individuals or populations.

McGowan Creek is critical habitat for chinook salmon. Effects to critical habitat are consistent with those identified in the programmatic biological assessment. Effects as outlined in the programmatic for trail maintenance and restoration are essentially the same as those for critical habitat. Actions may lead to the enhancement of critical habitat condition by reducing sediment and protecting the streambanks and flood plain from disturbance.

The McGowan Creek system is considered essential fish habitat for steelhead and chinook salmon. Actions associated with the proposed project are not likely to adversely affect habitat. Potentially actions could increase available habitat by restricting stream crossings and avoiding riparian disturbance. In-stream work does not include streambanks, bottom, or channel modification.

### **5.4 Hazardous Material**

Based on the description of the proposed action, it is not anticipated there will be any hazardous materials impacts.

### **5.5 Cultural Resources**

There are no known cultural resources located within the project area.

### **5.6 American Indian Rights**

There are no American Indian treaty rights associated with the project area tract.

## **5.7 Environmental Justice**

The proposed project areas are not known to be used by, or disproportionately used by, Native Americans, minorities or low-income populations at greater rates than the general population. This includes the relative geographic location and cultural, religious, employment, subsistence, or recreational activities that may bring Native Americans, minorities or low-income populations to these areas. BLM concludes that no disproportionately high, adverse human health or environmental, effects would occur to Native Americans, minorities, or low-income populations from these actions.

## **5.8 Unaffected Resources**

The following are either not present or would not be affected by any of the alternatives: Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns, prime or unique farm lands, floodplains, Native American religious concerns, solid or hazardous wastes, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Minority populations and low-income populations.

## 6.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

### 6.1 EA Review

This Environmental Analysis is being mailed out to the following members of the general public and organizations:

John Bianco  
Oregon DEQ  
Jim Goodpasture  
Pam Hewitt  
Charles & Reida Kimmel  
Lane County Land Management  
Carol Logan, Kalapooya Sacred  
Circle Alliance  
Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife  
Oregon Dept of Forestry  
Oregon Natural Resources Council  
The Pacific Rivers Council  
John Poynter  
Leroy Pruitt  
Roseburg Resources Co.  
Peter Saraceno

Harold Schroeder  
Sierra Club - Many Rivers Group  
Swanson Superior Forest Products Inc.  
Craig Tupper  
Governor's Forest Planning Team  
Jan Wroncy  
Ann Mathews  
American Lands Alliance  
Kris and John Ward  
Sondra Zemansky  
Robert P Davison  
Tom Stave, U of O Library  
John Muir Project  
James Johnston  
Scott Lucas

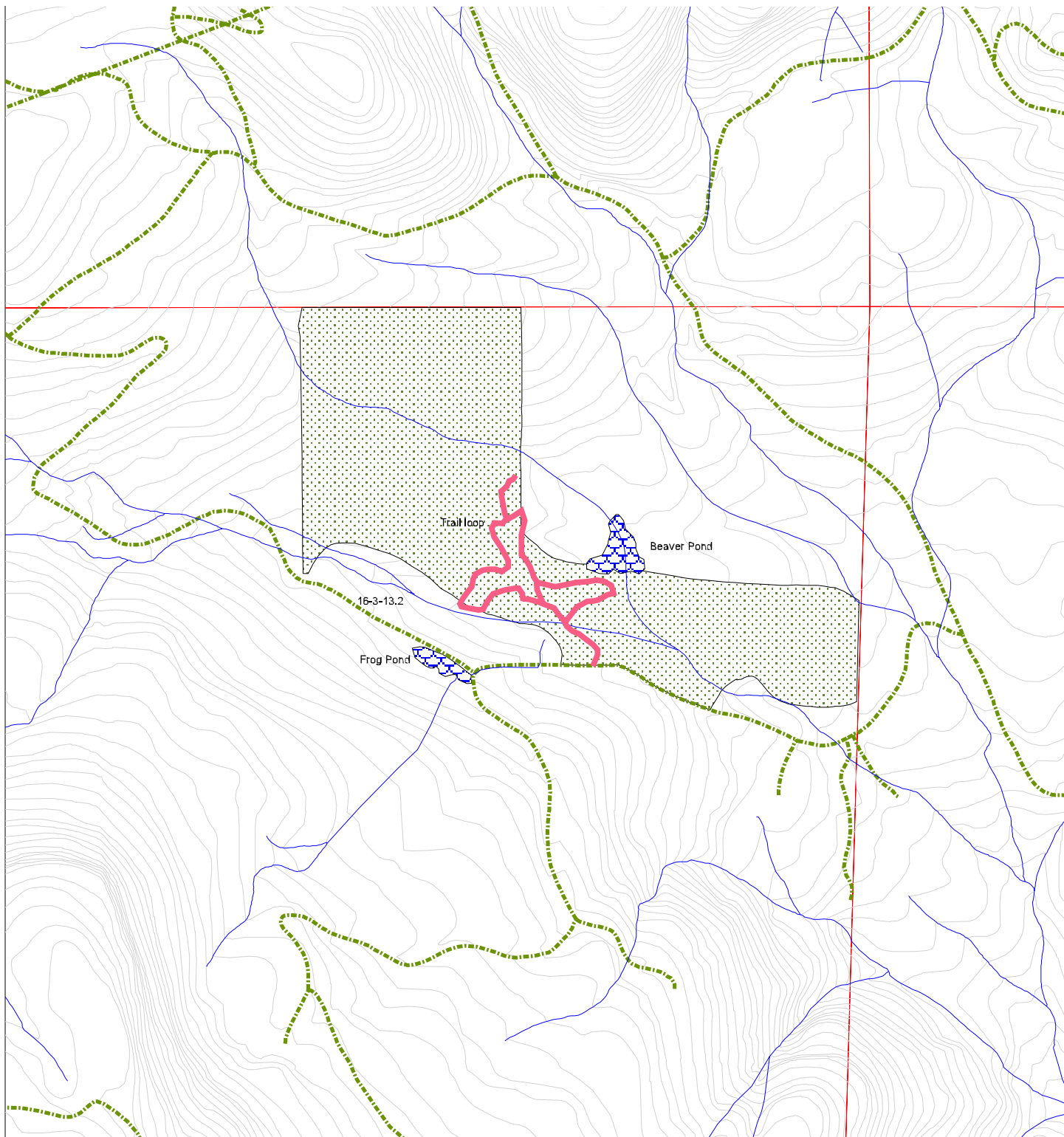
### 6.2 Consultation

No consultation was required for threatened and endangered wildlife. See Section 5.4 Fish, for information on threatened and endangered fish.

### 6.3 List of Preparers

The Proposed Action and alternatives were developed and analyzed by the following interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists:

Name	Title	Resource/Discipline
Rudy Wiedenbeck	Soil Scientist	Soils
Paula Larson	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Mark D'Aversa	Fisheries Biologist/Hydrologist	Fisheries and Hydrology
Andrea Ruchty	Botanist	Botany
Trish Wilson	Landscape Planner	NEPA Coordination
Glen Gard	Haz/Mat Coordinator	Hazardous Materials
Mike Southard	Archaeologist	Archaeology
Christie Hardenbrook	Public Affairs	Team coordination/writer



# McGowan Educational Area

T.16S, R.02 W. Sec 19

500 0 500 Feet



1" = 250'

- Trail.shp
- Streams
- Roads.shp
- Pond
- Environmental education area
- 20' Contour intervals
- Section lines





The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is not a decision document. Its purpose is to state that the actions proposed do not have a significant effect on the environment and that an EIS is not needed according to information contained in the EA and other available information. The unsigned FONSI is sent out with the EA to let you know that we feel that our actions do not warrant an EIS.

## **Finding of No Significant Impact**

### **McGowan Creek Environmental Education Area**

### **EA OR 090-01-20**

The Interdisciplinary Team for the McKenzie Resource Area, Eugene District, Bureau of Land Management has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and analyzed a proposal to complete improvements to the existing trail, construct handrails on a log bridge, and construct an elevated walkway. The McGowan Environmental Education Area is located in T. 16 S., R. 2 W. Sec. 19, approximately 6 miles west of Marcola, Oregon.

The proposed action and alternatives are described in the attached McGowan Environmental Education Area Environmental Assessment (OR 090-EA-01-20). The Proposed Action and Alternatives are in conformance with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994), the *Record of Decision for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, February 2001, and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995).

The anticipated environmental effects contained in this EA are based on research, professional judgement, and experience of the Interdisciplinary (ID) team and Eugene District Resources staff. No significant adverse impacts are expected to (1) Threatened or Endangered species, (2) Flood plains or Wetlands/Riparian areas, (3) Wilderness Values, (4) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, (5) Cultural Resources, (6) Prime or unique Farmland, (7) Wild and Scenic Rivers, (8) Air Quality, (9) Native American Religious Concerns, (10) Hazardous or Solid Waste, or (11) Water Quality.

#### **DETERMINATION**

On the basis of information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that the Alternatives analyzed do not constitute a major Federal action affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a new EIS or supplement to the existing EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Manager, McKenzie Resource Area

Date: \_\_\_\_\_